

## **Rocky Hill Board of Health – Minutes of the Meeting on November 11, 2008**

### **Location: Borough Hall**

Members Present: Lisbeth Haines, M.D. (presiding); Susan Fisher, V.M.D.; Mary Germain, Ed.D. APRN-BC, FNAP; Beverly Poelstra, C.M.; Margaret Querec, R.N., M. S.N.

Present; Stephen Papenberg, Health Officer

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm, prior notification having been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231.

### **Review of Minutes and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2008 were reviewed. They were approved by a vote on a motion made by Dr. Poelstra and seconded by Dr. Fisher. A correction was made to the June 3, 2008 minutes. They were amended to remove the name of Susan Fisher as being present.

### **Report of the Health Officer**

1. The possible consolidation of South Brunswick Health Department with Middlesex County will be decided in the next several weeks. South Brunswick is waiting for an assessment report from the county. Rocky Hill needs to move forward with exploring a contract with the Somerset County Health Department. Somerset County is very interested in a contract with us. Dr. Haines has already met with John Horensky, director of the County Health Department. We have 7 food facilities, 7-12 complaints a year and the flu and rabies clinics annually. We currently have no active attendees at the South Brunswick Child Health clinic. We will get a formal proposal from Somerset County for all the same services. The contract would be for a minimum of two years. They would supply standard services and the Flu and Rabies clinics would have to be paid independently. We will also request that our monthly meetings be attended by an appropriate county staff member.
2. Somerset County is in the process of doing a feasibility study to determine if all communities in the county can be served by one agency. The study is being conducted by the County Municipal Managers in conjunction with the Business task force. The United way is funding the study. The counties in New Jersey have many different county-wide models and at least two of the counties have a county-wide board of health. One health Department would benefit the communities with great cost savings however there is concern about the capacity to ensure public health delivery to the citizens.

### **Old Business**

1. There was no quorum at the Montgomery Municipal Alliance meeting on November 10, 2008, so the meeting was not able to conduct any business. Montgomery Night Off is on March 3, 2009 and it was decided that we should have the mayor of Rocky Hill make a proclamation that Rocky Hill will recognize the day. Dr Poelstra will ask Mayor Zimmerman to make the Proclamation. The outreach committee has been handing out educational materials at High School Football

Games. The Assessment committee would like to conduct a survey to determine risky behavior, mostly drug and alcohol related, among the high School students. However, they will not be allowed to conduct the survey through the high school. Denise Crowley will be talking to the senior citizens at their next meeting about concerns for risky behavior within that the older members of the community.

2. Dr. Haines will meet with the director of the Rocky Hill Cooperative Nursery school concerning the sandbox safety. It needs to be covered to prevent parasitic infestation in the children. They have no problem removing it; however, Dr. Fisher and Dr. Haines will attend their monthly meeting on November 19, 2008 to determine if there are any other solutions. The sand was recently changed and it is covered today.
3. Dr. Haines attended the Access Subcommittee of the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) meeting. They are exploring various ways to improve access to health care within the county. One of the ideas was to offer Healthcare Kiosks which use telemedicine to connect citizens to Health providers.
4. Dr Fisher reported on the Website. She has determined that the hits on the site have been increasing. In October 2008 there were 299 unique visitors and 419 visitors. Totals for the year so far are 1744 unique visitors and 2407 total visitors. There are many excellent links and resources on the site and any new recommendations would be welcomed. Each members of the Board will make a contribution to the site and are assigned different topics.

### **New Business**

1. The terms of both Dr. Fisher and Dr. Haines are expiring at the end of the year. The mayor makes the final decision as to who will be appointed to the Board of Health. The recommendation from the board is that both of these members be asked to serve another term on the Board.
2. The current press release to the community is a brochure from the US Department of Homeland Security on how to plan for emergencies. They were distributed throughout town recently.
3. The literature search of pedestrian crossing safety is still in the process of being conducted. It was felt that enforcement is one of the most important deterrents to cars not stopping at intersections.
4. The Borough Council is discussing the possibility of changing the length of the license for animals from one year to every three years. The recommendation from the Board is to keep the license renewal at one year in length. We feel that it is much easier to keep compliance with rabies requirements if the license is renewed annually. The Board of Health made a formal resolution that the length of dog and cat licensing period remain as one year. The motion was made by Dr. Poelstra and seconded by Mrs. Querec. The Board felt strongly that the yearly licensing schedule is more appropriate to linking with yearly reminder letters.
5. Someone will need to be hired to do the Community Pet survey. It was suggested that a reminder be send out to citizens prior to the survey. Dr. Haines wrote a draft that was reviewed by the board. Several changes were made. The letter will be presented to the Borough Council for their
6. The map of Van Horne Park was delivered to the squad.
7. Radon kits are available at South Brunswick for \$20.00.
8. The flu Clinic is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2008.

9. Executive order # 100 concerning lead paint needs to be read so we can have a discussion at our next meeting. There was also a question about toys and it was determined that they are regulated at the federal level.

The next meeting will be on December 8, 2008 at 4:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm following a motion by Dr. Poelstra and seconded by Peggy Querec.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Querec